



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Midland Army Airfield

CERCLIS ID#: TX0000606419

Alias Site Name: NA

Address: Approximately 8.5 miles southwest of Midland on U.S. Highway 80

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: Midland/Midland County/Texas

Report Type: Site Inspection

Date: August 15, 2008

Author: USACoE

RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund															
	<table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="3"><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">To be performed by: <u>USACoE</u></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			To be performed by: <u>USACoE</u>		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____																
To be performed by: <u>USACoE</u>																
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC																
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Enforcement	Facility			

SEND SSSR COPIES TO: ☐ 6SF-AC ☐ 6WQ-SP ☐ ATSDR ☒ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

DISCUSSION:

Midland Army Airfield (AAF), an approximately 1,680 acre property, is located approximately 8.5 miles southwest of Midland in Midland County, Texas, and is accessed from U.S. Highway 80. Previously known as Sloan Field, Midland AAF was used by the Army intermittently in the 1930s for refueling. The airfield was leased to the U.S. Government around 1930. In 1935, co-owners of the property sold 222 acres of the leased land to the City of Midland, which began operating the airfield as the Midland Municipal Airport. From 1941 until 1946, the Army Air Corps stationed at Midland AAF used the airfield as a flying school for the Army Air Forces Bombardier School Texas. The airfield was released back to the City of Midland in 1949. Today the airfield portion of the site is owned by the City of Midland and is known as Midland International Airport.

The objective of this site inspection (SI) was to determine whether the Midland AAF warrants further evaluation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) beyond the SI stage. There are three munitions response sites (MRS), referred to as the "Skeet Range," "Burial Pit No. 1," and "Burial Pit No. 2" located within the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) property at Midland AAF. The investigation of Midland AAF was performed to confirm known skeet range and burial pit locations and to evaluate evidence for the presence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), munitions debris (MD), and discarded military munitions (DMM) at the site. To accomplish this objective, qualitative reconnaissance (QR) and munitions constituents (MC) sampling were performed.

The SI evaluation included performing approximately 2.8 miles of QR. The QR did not locate any MEC at the any of the MRSSs, though several MD and DMM items were observed at both Burial Pits, including multiple M38A2 practice bomb



bodies and one expended M1A1 spotting charge. No MD was observed in the remaining lands. A total of 20 observations were noted by the SI field team and the MD and DMM described above were noted at four observation locations.

During the SI, 6 surface soil samples, two duplicates, two ambient samples, and one quality assurance (QA) sample were collected from Midland AAF. The samples were collected from areas in the vicinity of the two Burial Pits and from within the Skeet Range, which are the areas considered to have the highest likelihood for residual MEC and MC contamination, if present. The ambient samples were collected on the remaining land outside the MRS boundaries. One groundwater sample was collected from a supply well on the site.

No explosive compounds were detected in the surface soil samples collected from the MRSs at the site, and while lead and copper were detected at both the Skeet Range and the Burial Pits, neither analyte was detected above the USGS background concentration of 23 mg/kg or 15 mg/kg respectively, for Midland County. PAHs detected in surface soil samples collected from the Skeet Range MRS did not exceed the human health screening levels. A screening level ecological risk assessment was not conducted because it was determined the site was not an important ecological place. No explosives or PAHs were detected in the groundwater samples. Copper and lead were detected in the groundwater, but the detected concentrations did not exceed the human health screening levels.

Because of the presence of MD and DMM items encountered historically and observed during the SI, the MEC risk assessment concluded that some potential remains for human receptors to come into contact with surface or subsurface MEC items at the Burial Pit No. 1 and No. 2 MRSs. As a result, the SI report recommended that investigation of the Burial Pit No. 1 and No. 2 MRSs at Midland AAF proceed to RI/FS. The Skeet Range recommendation by the SI report was for RI/FS since there were detections of PAHs in soil and future construction in this area is planned.

Based on the information presented in the SI report, EPA recommends that an RI/FS be conducted at the Midland AAF.


APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by: Bret Kendrick
(Site Assessment Manager)

Signature: 

Date: 9/4/2008

Disposition
Approved by: John Meyer
(Section Chief 6SF-TR)

Signature: 

Date: 9/11/08